

or flowering plants. Most of the photographs were taken by Attorney Geo. B. Parker, of Pittsburgh, an enthusiastic flower photographer whose exquisitely colored lantern-slides are well known around western Pennsylvania.

Dr. Gress intentionally makes the book "as simple and free from technical terms as scientific accuracy will permit" and it should be interesting and useful to high-school pupils, scouts, and to the general non-technical public. General directions are given about collecting, pressing, mounting, and studying plants; the general structure and life-cycle of the plant is simply discussed, and then follow the descriptions of the various species. In connection with the descriptions and pictures of the plants are included accounts of insect visitors, economic uses, medicinal or poisonous properties, peculiarities of growth, habitat, or flower structure—in fact, just the interesting things that most people want to know about, after they find out what the plant is.

O. E. JENNINGS

Durand's Field Book of Common Ferns*

No group of plants better repays study than the ferns. A small group, one can become familiar with nearly all the species of any region in one summer. Succeeding years will add a few rare species or various new forms of familiar species. To help make a hobby of ferns or just to scrape acquaintance with them, there has recently appeared a new volume of Putnam's Field Books. This has been made as simple as possible,—possibly too simple for anyone who already knows something of the ferns. Only nine scientific terms are used, including midvein, spore-case, fruit-dot and habitat. Sporangium and sorus might have been used instead of the corresponding terms without making the book too technical and certainly the indusia should have been described, even if under some other name.

Fifty species of ferns are described and illustrated. There is a beautiful set of habitat pictures from photographs of the ferns as they grew, often with a wild flower of some kind at the side. In addition there are habitat photographs of four of

*Field Book of Common Ferns, Herbert Durand. 219 pages. 1928. G. P. Putnam's Sons. \$2.50.

the club mosses, though these are not included in the descriptive part of the book.

For each fern there is a full page outline drawing of the whole frond with enlarged details of the pinnules to show the sori. Facing each plate is a page of description with paragraphs on the frond, fruit-dots, rootstock, habitat, range, distribution and general notes. At the end of the book are short chapters on making a fern herbarium, growing ferns in the home or in the open, raising them from spores, etc. The common names used are those of Standardized Plant Names, the botanical names are those of the seventh edition of Gray's Manual, or the ones to be used in the new eighth edition. Synonyms are given in the back of the book instead of with the descriptions, an arrangement that will appear simple to beginners, but annoying to others.

But the only real fault to find with the book is in the omissions. A simple key would be of great value. At present the only way of determining a fern in this field book is to match it up with the pictures. While adding to the size and scope of the book, the inclusion of a dozen of the fern allies would have helped familiarize these rather neglected plants. In size and general appearance the book is similar to others of the Field Books, which means that it is small enough for a coat pocket, well bound and carefully printed. The book should add largely to the number of fern lovers.

GEORGE T. HASTINGS

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB

MEETING OF APRIL 25, 1928

This meeting was held in the Museum Building of the New York Botanical Garden. The minutes of the meetings of March 28 and April 10 were read and approved. Mr. Charles E. Raynal, The Manse, First Presbyterian Church, Statesville, N. C., was elected to membership.

By unanimous vote of the Club, the following new article of the Constitution was approved, to be Article XIX; the final article in the Constitution, relating to "Amendments," to be renumbered Article XX.